

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ZAMBIA: CHOLERA OUTBREAK

10 October, 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

Information Bulletin N° 1/03

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 50,000

**This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below and the information available at this time. A DREF allocation of CHF 50,000 has been released, to meet the most urgent needs. The Federation anticipates further needs once field assessment reports are available, and encourages donors to provide support either to reimburse the DREF (unearmarked funds) or by contributing to the 2003 Annual Appeal for Zambia (no. 01.22/2003). Should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through an Emergency Appeal.**

### The Situation

The first cholera cases were recorded in Kaputa district, northern Zambia on 18 September 2003. Areas affected include the Kasongole fishing villages situated approximately 16 kms from Mwanze Refugee Camp in Mporokoso. The Zambia Red Cross, supported by the Federation, is the primary implementing partner with UNHCR in this refugee camp for refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Kaputa is the main township in this remote area and is frequented by refugees from the camps mainly for barter trade and for social reasons.

While the refugee community is presently not directly affected by the cholera outbreak, it is anticipated that the situation may deteriorate as the normal rainy season approaches (starting in October, 2003).

At the time of reporting, there are 28 admissions in the Chiwala Health Center in Kaputa (some 16 Kms from the refugee camp), 14 discharges, 2 deaths, and 12 currently being treated.

#### Government Action - Ministry of Health and Camp Authorities:

- Restriction of movement by the Congolese refugees to and from the surrounding villages. This is strictly observed.
- Improved health surveillance including hygiene promotion, in Kaputa and the camps.
- Temporary closure of all the local markets and trading centers.
- Establishment of a MoH-lead Cholera Coordination Committee at the district level.
- Provision of supplies and equipment.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Zambia Red Cross, through their respective branches in Mporokoso and Kaputa, has been able to rapidly deploy volunteers to the affected areas for a joint assessment mission with MoH officials. Two Red Cross Health Information Teams (HITs) from the refugee camp have been re-deployed from the camps to work with the local

community in the area of hygiene promotion and public health education campaigns. Some 11 volunteers are also engaged in the distribution of ORS and non-food items in the local health center. The following items have been distributed by Zambia Red Cross to the Chiwala Health Center:

Item Description	Qty
Cholera kit	1
ORS sachets	500
Buckets	60 pcs
Blankets	55 pcs
Bed side pans	50 pcs
Soap	55 bars
Chlorine tabs	In 25kg drums

**Zambia Red Cross and Federation action:**

A cholera isolation center has been erected/constructed in the camp. The two rub halls can carter for some 50 admissions. An additional rub hall will be erected as appropriate. Branch volunteers from the refugee camps in Mwange and the HITs have been trained and are now involved in health education campaigns in the camps and in the surrounding areas. Some 25 volunteers have been trained thus far, and 1 cholera kit has been provided to the district health center in Chiwala, Kaputa District. The ZRCS/Federation participates in the CCC coordination meetings. The ZRCS and the Federation also coordinate the HITs and public awareness sub-committee group.

**Outstanding needs: including preparedness items**

- 150 cholera beds and cadaver bags (plastic burial bags);
- 150 gowns and 200 plastic aprons;
- Fifty 60-litre plastic containers;
- 500 blankets;
- 500 rubber boots;
- 3,000 sachets of disinfectant (5 litre containers of Kynol);
- 10,000 gloves;
- 5 nap-sac sprayers;
- 30,000 IV fluids (normal saline);
- 30,000 Ringers lactate (1,000lts);
- 30,000 Canulars;
- 50,000 capsules tetracycline (250mg);
- 1,200 ORS sachets and chlorine.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation’s Annual Appeal.